

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Upon entry of the present response, claims 2-21 and 37 will be pending, claims 2, 4-13 and 15-19 having been amended, claim 1 is canceled, and new claim 37 is added in this response. Claims 22-36 have been canceled due to a lack of unity of invention holding of the Examiner.

112 Rejections

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully transverse the rejections.

Claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form, has been amended to show the feature at issue as a method step. Claims 12 and 13 have also been amended to show the features at issue as method steps. Accordingly, claims 2, 12, and 13 (and all claims dependent thereon) are believed to be not indefinite.

103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 6-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over WO 00/59960 and/or WO 99/54365. While applicants respectfully disagree that these claims are unpatentable, in order to advance prosecution, applicants have canceled claim 1. Claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 3, 4 and 6-21 have either been rewritten to depend on claim 2 or they now depend on a claim that depends on Claim 2. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be allowable. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

In the event that this Response is deemed not timely, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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